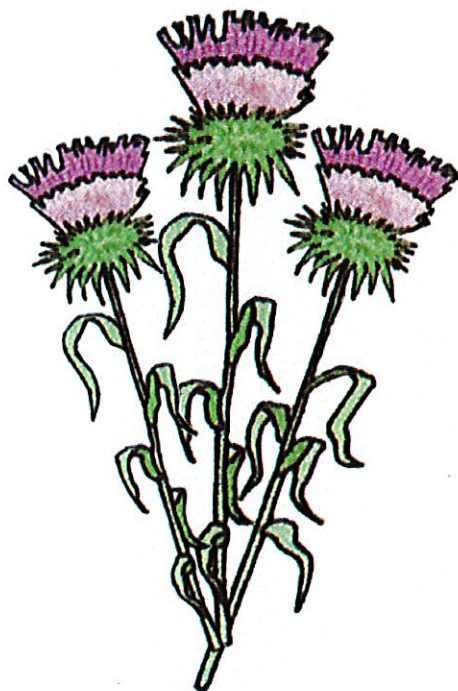


HOPE McNIVEN FAMILY
1736-2007



BY
WINIFRED B. SCHUMANN

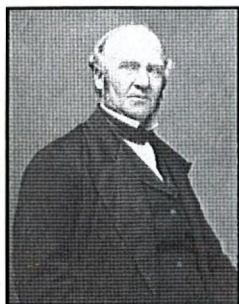
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HOPE MacNIVEN



Hope MacNiven was born in Glasgow, Scotland on March 19, 1803, and died in Fenelon Falls, Ontario, Canada on April 26, 1888. Hope McNiven was well educated in Glasgow and Edinburgh and fluent in French and comfortable reading Latin and Greek. In 1826 after completing his education in arts and humanities, Hope McNiven was employed in a draper's shop in Glasgow and traveled during the period of 1826-1832 in England, France, and Scotland.

In 1832, Hope McNiven married Agnes Woodrow in Renfrew, Scotland. In 1837, Hope and Agnes McNiven left Scotland and sailed to Canada in self-imposed exile because of the prevailing political atmosphere, leaving their two children, John Hope and Agnes, with relatives in Scotland. Hope and Agnes McNiven had the following children born in Toronto: James Woodrow, Annabell Campbell and Mary. Hope McNiven was a merchant and grain broker in Toronto and Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada. In 1846, John Hope and Agnes joined the family in Canada.



After the death of Agnes Woodrow McNiven in 1849 in Toronto, Hope McNiven married Catherine Fraser in 1854 in St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada and moved to Ingersoll where he continued as a merchant and grain broker; from this union two children, Euphemia Dean and Charlotte Fraser, were born in Ingersoll, Ontario. Catherine Fraser changed the spelling of McNiven name to MacNiven to better reflect their Scottish heritage.

Hope MacNiven loved his native land, Scotland, and his adopted country, Canada. His love of Scotland is evidenced by his sense of obligation to reveal in verse Scottish history as he knew and experienced it. In one of his poems, *Lay of the Bard of Clutha*, Hope MacNiven expressed his own political opinions in the words of Wallace. Hope MacNiven's poetry reflects the influence of the English Romantic and Victorian poets. Like the Romanticists, he used the effects of nature; like Tennyson, he was a good metrist; and like Browning, he used little of the merely sentimental and revealed sturdy optimism and faith in humanity. He was a facile craftsman in verse and was referred to as the Bard of Clutha* in Scotland.



Although Hope MacNiven suffered wrongs and injustices in Scotland, he never lost his love for mankind and Scotland. His view of life, if seemingly sometimes narrowly nationalistic, was always lofty. Hope MacNiven lived a noble life and the muse and the man were one. He loved liberty and nature and dedicated his entire life to the principles he held high: freedom of thought and movement, dignity of man, the rights of the individual—all united under a due and just process of law.

As a tribute to her beloved father, Hope MacNiven, Euphemia Dean MacNiven O'Connor wrote the poem, *The Agéd Saint*.

Winifred B. Schumann

*Gaelic for Clyde, one of the principal rivers of Scotland.

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 6) **Dorothy Fraser O'Connor**

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